



Songs of innocence and experience analysis pdf

Analysis Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience (1794) juxtapose the innocent, pastoral world of childhood against an adult world of corruption and repression; while such poems as "The Lamb" represent a meek virtue, poems like "The Tyger" exhibit opposing, darker forces. Thus the collection as a whole explores the value and limitations of two different perspectives on the world. Many of the poems fall into pairs, so that the same situation or problem is seen through the lens of innocence first and then experience. Blake does not identify himself wholly with either view; most of the poems are dramatic--that is, in the voice of a speaker other than the poet himself. Blake stands outside innocence and experience, in a distanced position from which he hopes to be able to recognize and correct the fallacies of both. In particular, he pits himself against despotic authority, restrictive morality, sexual repression, and institutionalized religion; his great insight is into the way these separate modes of control work together to squelch what is most holy in human beings. The Songs of Innocence dramatize the naive hopes and fears that inform the lives of children and trace their transformation as the child grows into adulthood. Some of the poems are written from the perspective of children, while others are about children as seen from an adult perspective. Many of the poems draw attention to the positive aspects of natural human understanding prior to the corruption and distortion of experience. Others take a more critical stance toward innocent purity: for example, while Blake draws touching portraits of the emotional power of rudimentary Christian values, he also exposes--over the heads, as it were, of the innocent--Christianity'..... middle of paperreference to the lamb in the penultimate stanza reminds the reader that a tiger and a lamb have been created by the same God, and raises guestions about the implications of this. It also invites a contrast between the perspectives of "experience" and "innocence" represented here and in the poet leaves us to awe at the complexity of creation, the sheer magnitude of God's power, and the inscrutability of divine will. The perspective of experience in this poem involves a sophisticated acknowledgment of what is unexplainable in the universe, presenting evil as the prime example of something that cannot be denied, but will not withstand facile explanation, either. The open awe of "The Tyger" contrasts with the easy confidence, in "The Lamb," of a child's innocent faith in a benevolent universe. Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience (1794) juxtapose the innocent, pastoral world of childhood against an adult world of corruption and repression; while such poems as "The Lamb" represent a meek virtue, poems like "The Tyger" exhibit opposing, darker forces. Thus the collection as a whole explores the value and limitations of two different perspectives on the world. Many of the poems fall into pairs, so that the same situation or problem is seen through the lens of innocence first and then experience. Blake does not identify himself wholly with either view; most of the poems are dramatic—that is, in the voice of a speaker other than the poet himself. Blake stands outside innocence and experience, in a distanced position from which he hopes to be able to recognize and correct the fallacies of both. 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The Songs of Experience work via parallels and contrasts to lament the ways in which the harsh experiences of adult life destroy what is good in innocence, while also articulating the weaknesses of the innocent perspective ("The Tyger," for example, attempts to account for real, negative forces in the universe, which innocence fails to confront). These latter poems treat sexual morality in terms of the repressive effects of jealousy, shame, and secrecy, all of which corrupt the ingenuousness of innocent love. With regard to religion, they are less concerned with the character of individual faith than with the institution of the Church, its role in politics, and its effects on society and the individual mind. Experience thus adds a layer to innocence that darkens its hopeful vision while compensating for some of its blindness. The style of the Songs of Innocence and Experience is simple and direct, but the language and the rhythms are painstakingly crafted, and the ideas they explore are often deceptively complex. Many of the poems are narrative in style; others, like "The Sick Rose" and "The Divine Image," make their arguments through symbolism or by means of abstract concepts. Some of Blake's favorite rhetorical techniques are personification and the reworking of Biblical symbolism and language. Blake frequently employs the familiar meters of ballads, nursery rhymes, and hymns, applying them to his own, often unorthodox conceptions. This combination of the traditional with the unfamiliar is consonant with Blake's perpetual interest in reconsidering and reframing the assumptions of human thought and social behavior. 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This combination of the traditional with the unfamiliar is consonant with Blake's 1A little black thing among the snow, 2Crying "weep!" in notes of woe!3"Where are thy father and mother? say?"4"They are both gone up to the church to pray.5"Because I was happy upon the heath, 6And smil'd among the winter's snow, 7They clothed me in the clothes of death,8And taught me to sing the notes of woe.9"And because I am happy and dance and sing,10They think they have done me no injury,11And are gone to praise God and his Priest and King,12Who make up a heaven of our misery." Songs of Innocence and Experience Contents The context of Songs of Innocence and ExperienceSynopses and commentaryTextual historySongs of InnocenceIntroduction (I)The ShepherdThe Ecchoing GreenThe LambThe little black boyThe BlossomThe chimney sweeper (I)The little boy lost (I)The Little Boy FoundLaughing songA Cradle SongThe Divine ImageHoly Thursday (I)NightSpringNurse's Song (I)Infant JoyA DreamOn Another's SorrowSongs of ExperienceIntroduction (E)Earth's AnswerThe Clod and the PebbleHoly Thursday (E)The Little Girl FoundThe Chimney Sweeper (E)Nurse's Song (E)The Sick RoseThe FlyThe AngelThe TygerMy Pretty Rose-treeAh! Sun-flowerThe LillyThe Garden of LoveThe Little VagabondLondonThe Human AbstractInfant SorrowA Poison TreeA Little Boy Lost (E)A Little Girl LostTo TirzahThe SchoolboyThe Voice of the Ancient BardA Divine ImageThemes and significant ideasCritical approaches to Songs of Innocence and ExperienceVaried critical responsesAn example of Marxist analysis - LondonApproaching exams and essays Resources and further reading Although Blake was a unique talent of his time, his poetry also reflects the world view and background from which he came. This was influenced by the Enlightenment, the changes in society due to the first stages of the Industrial Revolution, as well as Christian teaching. Blake, however, was not an orthodox believer - he re-interpreted most of what he read in the Bible to produce his own individual mythology, which even critics find difficult and sometimes obscure. Some believe that the Songs of Innocence were originally a separate project and thus the Songs of Innocence and of Experience as we have them now were not conceived and planned as an entity. Read more . . . Blake's was a time of turmoil arising out of challenges to established ideas about monarchy, hierarchy, human nature and human rights. Read more . . . Dive in to the Songs of Innocence and Experience. Songs of Innocence and Experience text guide Synopses of the poetry - Detailed analysis of the Songs of Innocence and Experience. and literary contexts alongside the life of William Blake so you can make sense of events. Themes and significant ideas, such as Blake's ideas about the concepts of innocence and experience. Songs of Innocence and Experience - Read the poems and research the text, all for free and online. Decide what the key words of the question are, and underline them. If you are asked to analyse an extract, read it through two or three times. Do not adopt the first possible approach - be willing to dispute the terms of the question if you are given the opportunity. Want more essay and exam tips? We have something for you as well! Free downloadable Songs of Innocence and Experience worksheets ready to be printed and used in class. A European intellectual movement of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, also known as the Age of Reason. It sought to promote knowledge and reform society by focussing on what could be understood through reason and logic. The very rapid development of industry in Britain through the growing use of machines in the late 18th and early 19th century. Name originally given to disciples of Jesus by outsiders and gradually adopted by the Early Church. The Christian Bible consists of the Old Testament scriptures inherited from Judaism, together with the New Testament, drawn from writings produced from c.40-125CE, which describe the life of Jesus and the establishment of the Christian church. A passing reference to a text or historical fact.

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